

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05389 051039 Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-13 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /112 W

----- 129135

R 051003 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9895

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5389

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: GOP TALKS WITH POLITICAL OPPOSITION

REF: KARACHI 1147

1. DESPITE FORMER BALUCHISTAN CHIEF MINISTER MENGAL'S CURT DISMISSAL OF LAST WEEK'S TALKS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL OPPONENT LEADERS (REFTEL), ANOTHER MARATHON, BUT APPARENTLY INCONCLUSIVE SESSION WAS HELD JULY 3. MEETING WAS CALLED AT BEHEST OF LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINSTER PIRZADA AND WAS ATTENDED BY PRINCIPAL OPPONENT FIGURES INCLUDING NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) PRESIDENT WALI KHAN.

2. WALI TOLD EMBOFFS JULY 4 THAT TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS, INCLUDING BHUTTO, DID NOT TOUCH ON RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH AND THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION WAS SOLE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. LATEST MEETING LIKE PREVIOUS WAS UNPRODUCTIVE. WALI COMPLAINED THAT, IN HIS EXPERIENCE WITH BHUTTO, MEETINGS ARE HELD, SOME AGREEMENTS REACHED AND SUBSEQUENTLY " NOTHING HAPPENS". WALI SAID THAT BALUCHISTAN PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION WAS KEY

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05389 051039 Z

INDICATOR WHETHER BHUTTO WAS PREPARED TO PERMIT CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN; BHUTTO WAS ACTING AS IF NINE WAS MAJORITY
IN BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN TWELVE (NUMBER OF SUPORTERS IN NAP/ JUI COALITION).

3. NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY LEADERS HAVE NOW LEFT CAPITAL TO RETURN TO FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN IN ORDER TO TAKE PART IN ELECTIONS TO SENATE. WITH BHUTTO'S DEPARTURE NEXT WEEK ON US TRIP, EARLY COMPROMISE BETWEEN BHUTTO AND NAP APPEARS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY.

DECONTROL JULY 5, 1974
SOBER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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